



World Learning



U.S. Embassy Georgetown

100 Young and Duke Streets, Kingston, Georgetown

2016 Youth Ambassadors Program: Caribbean **Student Application**

Program Description:

The 2016 Youth Ambassadors Program (YAP) with the Caribbean includes a three-week U.S.-based exchange under the theme: **“Youth and Social Transformation”** for approximately 41 participants from five countries in the Caribbean region. In Guyana, we will select 8 students and 1 adult mentor to participate in the program **from August 8 – 29, 2016.**

The Youth Ambassadors Program provides youths with the tools and resources they need to realize their potential as leaders and to be protagonists in their own development. Through the YAP, a lifetime of service begins with a three-week exchange. Participants develop their leadership skills, strengthen their ability to serve their communities, and build mutual understanding in the Western Hemisphere. In addition to developing leadership skills, participants will learn about a variety of issues during activities and programming that will take place in Brattleboro, Vermont, three host cities in the United States., and Washington, D.C.

The exchange will be intensive, and highly interactive. Students and educators will participate in workshops, community service activities, team building exercises, meetings with community leaders, and leadership development exercises, and they will live with American families.

While the exchange is three weeks in length, the program extends for a year. Upon their return home, the students will apply what they have learned to implement projects that serve needs in their communities under the guidance of their mentor. **The follow on community projects will take place from September 2016 to June 2017.**

If selected to participate, applicants **must** partake in **ALL** program activities in the United States and home country, including the pre-departure orientation and follow-on activities. Participants must remain with the program throughout the entire exchange . Personal travel within the United States during the program is not permitted.

Exchange visitors are required to travel on a specific visa, known as the J-1 visa. As an exchange visitor (J-1) visa holder, you will be subjected to the two-year home-country physical presence requirement. You are required to fulfill this requirement by returning to your home country for a cumulative total period of at least two years.

We seek energetic and committed applicants who are ready to develop their skills in order to be effective leaders in their schools and communities.

Instructions for completing this application: Please read carefully and fill out the application answering all questions completely. The information you provide on this application will provide the basis for selecting participants for this program. Incomplete applications will not be considered. Semi-finalists will be contacted for an in-person or telephone interview.

Student applicants must:

- ✓ Be a Guyanese citizen residing in Guyana (applicants with dual U.S. citizenship/permanent residency will not be considered).
- ✓ Be at least 15 and not more than 18 years old during the program
- ✓ Attend a Public High School and have at least one semester remaining after August 2016
- ✓ Have a strong academic record
- ✓ Have a strong command of English
- ✓ Possess leadership potential and commitment to community service
- ✓ Demonstrate good initiative, communication skills, and a positive attitude
- ✓ Have the ability to work in a team and be respectful of the opinions of others
- ✓ Have little or no previous exposure to the U.S.
- ✓ Must fulfill a two-year home-country physical presence requirement.

Please submit the following required documentation listed below, along with your application:

- A copy of your birth certificate
- A copy of your passport bio-data page
- A copy of your school record for 2015 – 2016
- Two references

Applications are due by March 16, 2016

Applications should be submitted to:

Public Affairs Section
U.S. Embassy Georgetown
100 Young and Duke Streets
Kingston, Georgetown

OR

Via E-mail to: PDGeorge@state.gov

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact:

Aretha Majeed
U.S. Embassy Georgetown
100 Young and Duke Streets
Kingston, Georgetown
Telephone: 225-4900 Ext: 4018
E-mail: PDGeorge@state.gov

Bobby Adelson
U.S. Embassy Georgetown
100 Young and Duke Streets
Kingston, Georgetown
Telephone: 225-4900 Ext: 4102
E-mail: PDGeorge@state.gov

There is no application fee. The United States Government will pay for all costs to participate in the program, including international travel to and from the United States, orientations, visa fees, and the exchange activities in the United States, including meals and lodging.

Youth Ambassadors Program: Caribbean

Student Application

Please type your responses CLEARLY

Paste or staple a recent passport-size photograph here

Personal Information (Please print your name EXACTLY as it appears on your passport)

Name _____
Last (Family) First Middle
Current Address _____

Home Phone _____ Mobile Phone _____
Email _____ Mother's Maiden Name _____
Date of Birth (Month/dd/yyyy) _____ Age _____
City and Country of Birth _____
Country of citizenship or permanent legal residence _____
Gender ☐ Male ☐ Female

Parent/Guardian Information

****Your parent or guardian must sign the application at the end****

Parent/Guardian 1

Name _____ Relation to you _____
Address (if different from yours) _____
Phone _____ Email _____ Occupation _____

Parent/Guardian 2

Name _____ Relation to you _____
Address (if different from yours) _____
Phone _____ Email _____ Occupation _____

Passport Information

Do you have a valid passport? ☐ Yes ☐ No
If yes, please attached a copy of your passport bio data page
Passport Number _____ Expiration Date (mm/dd/yyyy) _____
Issuing Country _____

Travel Information

Have you ever traveled to the United States or another country? ☐ Yes ☐ No
If yes, please provide a brief description of dates, length and nature of your stay(s):

Do you have any plans to migrate in the next two years for study or permanent residence?

☐ Yes ☐ No

Education and Activities

****Please attach your most recent academic record****

Name of school currently attending _____

School address _____

Current grade _____ Year you will graduate _____

Academic subjects you are most interested in _____

Do you speak any other languages? ☐ Yes ☐ No Language _____

Please list all extracurricular activities you currently take part in (school clubs, sports teams, youth organizations, community service activities, leisure time activities), how long you have been involved with each, any awards or honors. Use additional space as needed.

SHORT ESSAYS: *Please respond to the following short essay questions in one paragraph*

Why do you want to participate in this program?

Can you identify a specific issue or problem affecting your school, neighborhood, or community? What might you do to help resolve this problem as part of your community project after the exchange?

In what ways are you an effective leader in your school, neighborhood or community? Using two examples, describe how you are a leader in your school or community.

Describe an experience working with a group of diverse people. What did you learn from that experience? How did you work together?

During this exchange, participants will act as ambassadors for their countries. What qualities do you have that would help you fulfill this role?

What knowledge, skills and abilities do you hope to gain as a result of participating on this program? Who else would benefit from your participation on this program?

Participant Agreement/Parental Consent

I agree that all of the information in this application is true and I agree that if chosen to participate, I will participate in **ALL** program activities in the United States and my country, including the pre-departure orientation and follow-on activities. I also understand that I must remain with the program throughout the entire exchange and that personal travel within the United States during the program is not permitted.

Applicant Signature

Date

I permit my child to apply for and, if selected, to participate in this program.

Parent/Guardian signature(s)

Date

Parent/Guardian signature(s)

Date

MEDIA CONSENT: *Please sign the following statement to give permissions for photos and videos*

I consent to the use and/or reproduction of all photographs and video taken of, or including me, by the Department of State, including any agency, client, publication or other organization or institution in whole or in part, in all forms and media, for distribution to the general public for the purposes of publicity and promotion. I further consent to the reproduction or use of the photographs/information with or without my name, and consent that the Department of State may seek copyright of the photographs/information in their name.

Applicant Signature

Date

Parent/Guardian signature(s)

Date

YOUTH AMBASSADORS PROGRAM: Caribbean

Reference 1 of 2

Applicant Name: _____

For the Applicant: Please submit two references with your application. The forms should be from a teacher or other adult outside your family who knows you well. You may submit this form with your application OR your reference can return the signed and completed form to:

Public Affairs Section
U.S. Embassy Georgetown
100 Young and Duke Streets
Kingston, Georgetown
OR Via E-mail to: PDGeorge@state.gov

For the person providing reference: The student named above is applying to take part in the Youth Ambassadors Program, a three-week exchange program in the United States followed by community project implementation at home. The selected students will be in a challenging academic environment and intensive leadership training. To succeed, the participants must be highly motivated, and be able to adjust to living and working with people of different social and cultural backgrounds. We value your honest assessment of the applicant in helping us select the most appropriate participants. If you would like to add additional comments, we encourage you to do so. Your answers will remain confidential.

Please indicate your opinion of this applicant's ability to meet the challenges of this program

- _____ I strongly recommend this student
- _____ I recommend this student
- _____ I have minor reservations about recommending this applicant
- _____ I have major reservations about recommending this applicant
- _____ I do not recommend this student

How long, and in what context or capacity, have you known this applicant?

What are the applicant's strengths?

What are the academic or personal areas in which this applicant needs improvement?

Please describe the applicant's behavior or attitude with respect to authority, peer relationships, responsibility, and work activities.

Do you think the applicant would adapt well to unfamiliar environments and new situations? Why or why not?

Additional comments:

Name (printed) _____

Signature _____ Date _____

E-mail _____ Phone _____

YOUTH AMBASSADORS PROGRAM: Caribbean

Reference 2 of 2

Applicant Name: _____

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Name (printed) _____

Signature _____ Date _____

E-mail _____ Phone _____